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LIST OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS

An up-to-date list of Fellows and Members is now available, and will be found loosely inserted in this number of the *Eugenics Review*.

Hammersmith), Mr. Michael Egan sets out to present the arguments for and against this statement. His story is about a girl who is told, just before her marriage, that she is the adopted daughter of the Hampstead doctor and his wife with whom she has been brought up and that her mother—a one-time servant—is living in the slums of Stepney. She is faced therefore by the much discussed question—how much has her character been influenced by her natural inheritance and how much by the environment in which she has grown up? As a keen sociologist she determines to seek her mother out in the hope of discovering the answer. The play, with this opening, holds promise of an interesting and illuminating solution; but with the introduction of the Stepney family Mr. Egan allows his theme to become submerged in the

conventional clash between the social classes. The girl, in an attempt to justify her conviction that the environmental factor is of the greater importance, offers accommodation in her Hampstead home to the youngest members of her new-found family; but, her suggestion repudiated in a somewhat surprisingly philosophical speech by Stepney-born Doris, she is faced by the realization that one cannot influence human life by theory alone.

Thus, we get no further than the starting point. It is no doubt a pity that a play which might have contributed something fresh to its original idea should have been brought to so inconclusive an end. But as it offers a highly diverting evening, being written amusingly and with wit and acted with lively intelligence, perhaps we shouldn't complain.

POPULATION STUDIES

A Quarterly Journal of Demography

Editor : D. V. GLASS

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J. T. MARSHALL. Canada's National Vital Statistics Index

JULIE E. BACKER. Population Statistics and Population Registration in Norway. Part I. The Vital Statistics of Norway : an Historical Review

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Johnson* meant when he said: "The true genius is a mind of large general powers, accidentally determined to some particular direction." But there is reason to think that there are specific abilities distinct from intelligence which, when associated with it, decide the character of genius. Power of verbal expression is one such talent, and musical ability is another. Probably many factors are concerned, and it is the uniqueness of particularly favourable combinations that makes the genius.

Most geniuses are perfectly sane, but among creative artists, especially, the predominant rôle of the feelings explains the closer correlation between genius and mental instability. Here those very traits which in the less intelligent prove a social handicap may, when linked with high intellectual capacity and powers of artistic expression, become a social value, for in the social balance sheet of genius the deficiencies of the individual may be the assets of society. Is there not sometimes an overlap between the psychopath and the saint, the pervert and the reformer, which makes it impossible to distinguish them by current psychology?

* Boswell's *Life of Johnson*. Birkbeck Hill's edn., vol. ii, p. 437, note 2.

The obsessional scrupulosity of John Woolman helped to liberate the slaves, and Charles Dickens's "morbid" preoccupation with cruelty and prisons moved his "normal" fellow countrymen to abolish abuses which their own insensitiveness had long tolerated. Who can say whether Donne, Swift, Boswell, Johnson, Shelley, Darwin, Dickens and Ruskin would have been of more or less value to the world without their psychological handicaps? And would human culture be the richer or the poorer without its obsessionals and its cyclothymes? Is Mr. Edmund Wilson* right when he likens such geniuses to Philoctetes in Sophocles's play of that name? "The victim of a malodorous disease which renders him abhorrent to society and periodically degrades him and makes him helpless is also the master of a superhuman art which everybody has to respect and which the normal man feels he needs. . . . The bow would be useless without Philoctetes himself. It is in the nature of things—of this world where the divine and the human fuse—that they cannot have the irresistible weapon without its loathsome owner."

* *The Wound and the Bow*, p. 294.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOÖLOGY

Edited by Warder C. Allee, the University of Chicago.

In the October 1947 number:

THE EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON THE INTERSEX CHARACTER OF *DAPHNIA LONGISPINA*. By KATHERINE K. SANFORD.

THE EFFECT OF CERTAIN DEPRESSING AGENTS ON INTRACELLULAR OXIDATION OF INDICATORS IN HYDRA. By C. M. CHILD.

RESPONSES OF FISH MELANOPHORES TO CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS. By C. LADD PROSSER, BRUNO VON LIMBACH and GEORGE W. BENNETT, with Technical Assistance of MARIAN F. JAMES.

EFFECTS OF TESTOSTERONE PROPIONATE ON SEX DEVELOPMENT IN FEMALE *AMBYSTOMA* LARVAE. By BEATRICE MINTZ.

THE EFFECT OF MALE HORMONE ON AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN MICE. By ELIZABETH A. BEEMAN.

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- Ludovici, A. M. *The Choice of a Mate*. 1935. Pp. 510. Presented by Dr. C. P. Blacker.
- Lysenko, T. D. *Heredity and its Variability*. 1946. Pp. 65.
- Milbank Memorial Fund. *Postwar Problems of Migration*. 1947. Pp. 173. Presented by Mr. D. Caradog Jones.
- Moodie, W. *The Doctor and the Difficult Adult*. 1947. Pp. 296.
- Newman, M. T. *Indian Skeletal Material from the Central Coast of Peru*. 1947. Pp. 71.
- Raper, A. F. *Tenants of the Almighty*. 1943. Pp. 403.
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- Thesing, C. *Genealogy of Love*. 1933. Pp. 283. Presented by Dr. C. P. Blacker.
- Tschopik, H. *Highland Communities of Central Peru*. 1947. Pp. 56.
- Vischer, A. L. *Old Age: Its Compensations and Rewards*. 1947. Pp. 200.
- Young, K. *Personality and Problems of Adjustment*. 1947. Pp. 868.
- Reprinted from *The South African Journal of Science*, June 1946.
- Kanievsky, I. *Social Policy and Social Insurance in Palestine*. 1947.
- Matrimonial Causes, Final Report of the Committee*. (Denning Report.) 1947.
- Rohan, James C. *The Social Problem of High-Grade Deficiency*. Reprinted from the *Medical Press*, March 26th, 1947.
- Rønne, H. *The Inheritance of Leber's Disease*. Reprinted from *Acta Ophthalmologica*, 1944, 22. 2.
- Ryan, M., Edgecombe, M., and Chance, J. *Back Street Surgery*. 1947.
- Silcox, C. E. *Moral and Social Factors in V.D. Control*. 1945.
- Stewart, T. D. *Anthropology in the Melting Pot*. 1947.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the Society during the past quarter :

- | | |
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| F.R.I.C. | Esq., M.D. |
- British Medical Association. *When You are Old*. 1947.
- Darlington, C. D. *A Revolution in Soviet Science*. Reprinted from *Discovery*, February 1947.
- Fraser, R. *The Incidence of Neurosis among Factory Workers*. 1947.
- Horst, C. J. van der. *Revolution in Evolution*.

SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY

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This Review has now been in existence for over 30 years. It is the only British quarterly devoted exclusively to sociology and is well known in all countries where sociology is studied. It publishes papers read to the Institute and other papers embodying the results of original thought and research in sociological matters. Population, race, social institutions, the relations between the social sciences, and the sociological aspects of the social services fall within its scope.

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normal are largely limited to the field of intelligence and that they should not be regarded as necessarily inferior in temperament and character.⁹

Education

Peterborough Education Committee have limited the admission to infant schools to children over the age of 4½. Births in the area have risen from 803 in 1940 to 1,159 in 1946, and it is estimated that in 1952 there will be 5,667 children under the age of 12 in primary schools, as against 4,253 at present. If accommodation for classes of forty children is available, at least thirty-five additional teachers will be required.¹⁰

Sex Determination

According to Professor F. A. E. Crew, five years of intensive research should reveal a method of separating X and Y sperms, thus enabling parents to choose the sex of their babies. Up to the present a variety of techniques have been devised, but none so far has proved to be invariably effective.¹¹

Lightning Calculation

A series of tests on a broker's clerk have been carried out by the professor of applied mathematics at Stellenbosch University.¹² In the presence of witnesses the young man was asked:

What is 58 times 73 times 67? What is 734 squared? What is 89 cubed? Multiply 961 by 579. Find the cube root of 84,567. He gave all the answers correctly in 39 seconds. Next day, the professor, using a calculating machine and logarithms, took 142 seconds.

A correspondent¹³ using an up-to-date automatic electrical calculating machine found the answers in 60 seconds. Other correspondents drew attention to mathematical training in India; one cited a class of twelve-year-old budding moneylenders in Bikanir who gave almost instant answers to complicated calculations. Another quoted a Madras schoolgirl who when asked how she solved similar problems replied, "I myself do not know how I do it." The broker's clerk at Stellenbosch was not rated highly in mathematics at school, as his method of solving problems was either unexplained or unorthodox.

¹ *The Times*, Jan. 7th; ² *Irish Review and Annual*, 1947; ³ *The Times*, Jan. 20th; ⁴ *Glasgow Herald*, Jan. 12th; ⁵ *Glasgow Bulletin*, December 10th, 1947; ⁶ *The Times*, December 2nd, 1947; ⁷ *Manchester Guardian*, November 10th, 1947; ⁸ *The Lancet*, November 8th, 1947; ⁹ *British Medical Journal*, November 15th, 1947; ¹⁰ *Peterborough Standard*, December 5th, 1947; ¹¹ *Sunday Pictorial*, November 9th, 1947; ¹² *The Times*, December 17th, 1947; ¹³ *The Times*, January 7th, 1948.

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We in Britain, on the other hand, still allow even legitimate children to be stigmatized by the doctrine of hereditary damnation and human worthlessness. All children are "conceived and born in sin," according to the official baptism ceremony of the Church of England, as printed in the Common Prayer Book. All those interested in eugenics should be vigorously opposed to this superstition, which a great lawyer has described as "one of the most disastrous and soul-blasting insincerities ever breathed by Satan and received by man, the deadly root of infinite jungles of error and pestilence."

The post-war divorce ratio is all the more remarkable when one remembers that in the nineteen-twenties responsible sociologists were pronouncing the last rites on marriage.* Patriarchal marriage certainly *has* died. What is called marriage to-day is a very different thing from the stable institution which existed under the same name fifty or sixty years ago. For our parents marriage was a question of burning one's ships behind them. For women, it was entering the

* E.g., Calverton, V. F., *The Bankruptcy of Marriage*.

fortress of patriarchy. Once the drawbridge went up and the portcullis came down there was precious little chance of escape. As patriarchy is buried, we stand on the threshold of matriarchy, with its Natural Selection of the Willing Mother.

It is remarkable that monogamy has survived the avalanche that has been crashing down on it: social, political and scientific revolutions, equality for women, rational birth control, universal suffrage, feminism, and the sneers of a hedonistic and "advanced" generation.

And in a second world war which involved the mass separation of men from their wives and which, we now know, resulted in fourteen and a half million men being killed and nearly thirty million being wounded and crippled, even the birth-rate rose substantially in all countries, after causing alarm and despondency among politicians and demographers throughout the years between the two wars.

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